

**Town Meeting Coordinating Committee Meeting
Minutes from February 27, 2009**

1. **Call to Order:** This meeting began at 4:45pm. Present at the beginning of the meeting were: Carol Gray, Peggy Roberts, Judy Simpson, Nonny Burack, and Mary Streeter. Absent: Dorwenda Bynum-Lewis and Harry Brooks.
2. **Minutes of February 11:** Judy moved and Mary seconded that we adopt the minutes of February 11, 2009 (after edits). The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.
3. **Suggestions by TMCC to Select Board:** The TMCC edited the letter drafted by Jody regarding time-saving measures for Town Meeting and recommending a lottery system for the ordering of departments for the budget discussions, (see below). Following a discussion about the letter Carol made the following motion: I move 1) that we send the subcommittee's letter to the Select Board asking that a discussion of the topics in the letter be scheduled for the next Select Board meeting; 2) that the letter be cc'd to the Finance Committee, the Town Moderator and Town Manager; and 3) that representatives from TMCC meet with the Finance Committee in the near future to discuss the letter. Judy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
4. **Getting listed for planning meetings from Town Meeting:** Peggy discussed the responses from Town Manager and other parties regarding TMCC's request to be notified of the meetings planning for Town Meeting. Carol moved and Mary seconded that we table this issue at this time. The vote was unanimous to table this issue.
5. **Warrant Review:** Peggy said thus far no one from TMCC or the League is working on the warrant review because there isn't any warrant yet.
6. **Petition Zoning Articles:** To be discussed next time.
7. **Informational Forum:** This is scheduled for April 14, 7-9pm, ACTV. Carol reported that Roy Rosenblatt has said he will be a panelist and recommended a person in Greenfield who would probably be knowledgeable about the issue of state funding. Carol has also been speaking with Cheryl Zoll and members of the Homelessness Coalition about possible speakers and will speak to Paulette Brooks about moderating the panel.
8. **Bus Tour:** Carol reported that she had spoken with Jim Wald and he is willing to be on the bus tour to discuss Historic Preservation projects (cemetery, library, etc.). Carol talked to Cheryl Zoll about doing a stop at the Survival Center. Mary said she heard that the bus tour conflicted with an event for the 250th anniversary. One possibility is moving the bus tour up to 11:30am. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
9. **Precinct Meetings:** Mary reported that we are all set with precinct meetings aside from Precinct 3 and that Precinct 3 might be joined with another precinct. It was discussed that the Precinct 1 meeting might be moved to Immanuel Church if Precinct 3 isn't scheduled to have a meeting or if there is a joint meeting with Precinct 3.
10. **Reminder Stickers for Packet Envelopes:** Dorwenda has said she will print out labels. Mary will email Dorwenda to see if Dorwenda could email Mary the eye-catching design for the labels. We will figure out at a later meeting what substantive information to put on the labels.
11. **Town Meeting Display:** To be discussed next time.
12. **Information for packets:** To be discussed next time.

13. TMCC's webpage on the town website: To be discussed next time.

14. Adjournment: Carol moved and Judy seconded that we adjourn the meeting.
The vote was unanimous to adjourn at 6:15pm.

Documents Distributed at the meeting:

1. Agenda for today's meeting
2. Minutes from February 11, 2009
3. Samples of labels
4. Draft letter from Judy and Nonny regarding improving Town Meeting
5. Email from Brian Morton regarding order of budget presentations at Town Meeting

Carol Gray, Secretary

Dear Select Board,

One of the most frequent complaints of Town Meeting members is the length of Town Meeting. To address that complaint and others, the Town Meeting Coordinating Committee has some suggestions:

- 1) Any presentations when no motion is on the floor (such as those by the school superintendent, Town Manager or chairs of any committees) should instead be presented at the Warrant Review.
- 2) We suggest that the budgets for the individual town departments be presented by a representative from the department. Following this presentation, the Select Board, Finance Committee, and other relevant committees would make their recommendations.
- 3) We suggest that the order of presentations by Town Departments be determined by lottery. The random order of department presentation would be more democratic and would avoid any potential for preferential treatment of any one department.

Sincerely,

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee